

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058355
ORIGIN IO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO/IEP:DCKURTZER

APPROVED BY: IO:PBUNGE

-----162357Z 070291 /70

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MAR DEL PLATA IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BAGHDAD 456 ACTION SECSTATE BUENOS AIRES
INFO ANKARA DAMASCUS TEHRAN DTD 15 MAR

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 456

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SENV, IZ, IR, SY, TU

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE-POTENTIAL POLITICAL ISSUES

REF: BAGHDAD 0423

1. REFTEL OUTLINED SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ECWA
REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN BAGHDAD AND SUGGESTED
MAJOR ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES NOT LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT
UP AT MAR DEL PLATA CONFERENCE. IN VIEW MARCH 23
STARTING DATE FOR CONFERENCE, POUCHED COPY OF GOI
REPORT NOT LIKELY TO REACH CONCERNED ACTION ADDRESSEES IN TIME.
USINT THEREFORE TRANSMITTING BY TELEGRAM FOLLOWING
TEXT OF PORTION OF GOI PAPER OUTLING ITS POSITION ON USE OF
WATERS FROM INTERNATIONAL RIVERS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

IRAQ IS ALSO CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS CONNECTED
WITH THE NON-NAVIGATIONAL USES OF INTERNATIONAL
RIVERS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE UTILIZATION OF THESE
SOURCES FOR AGRICULTURAL, MUNICIPAL, INDUSTRIAL

AND POWER GENERATION PURPOSES WITH THE PROVISION THAT NO COUNTRY SHOULD USE SUCH WATERS IN A MANNER DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHER RIPARIAN COUNTRIES IN RESPECT OF EITHER THE QUANTITY OR THE QUALITY OF THE WATER RELEASED. SOME COUNTRIES ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO DISREGARD THE CONCEPT OF THE PRECEDENCE OF COMMON RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP OVER WATER RESOURCES AND ADOPTING A UNILATERAL APPROACH IN DEALING WITH WATER RESOURCES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS CONTEXT TO STRESS THAT WATER FROM ALL SOURCES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED COMMON PROPERTY FOR THE USUFRUCTUARY BENEFIT OF ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE SOURCE BASIN AND SHOULD NOT BE USED ABUSIVELY. WATER RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM DETRIMENT AND CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING OF THE WATER RESOURCES OF INDIVIDUAL RIVERS. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER AND THE NEED TO REGULATE ITS UTILIZATION BY COUNTRIES SHARING AN INTERNATIONAL RIVER, WITH THE AIM OF AVERTING DISPUTES AND ASSERTING THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS, AND BELIEVING THAT FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION WILL LEAD TO MORE POSITIVE RESULTS THAN ALLOWING DISPUTES TO BECOME AGGRAVATED, IRAQ INVITES BOTH SYRIA AND TURKEY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT REGULATING THE USE OF THE WATERS OF THE EUPHRATES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR ACQUIRED RIGHTS THEREIN AND ACHIEVE THE OPTIMUM UTILIZED OFFICIAL USE

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ZATION OF ITS WATERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PARTIES. IN THIS REGARD IT MIGHT ALSO BE WORTH WHILE TO MENTION CERTAIN GENERAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO COMMON INTERNATIONAL RIVERS:

1. INTERNATIONAL RIVER - THIS IS A COMMON RIVER WHICH SEPARATES OR CROSSES THE BORDERS OF TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES OR ONE WHICH FLOWS INTO THAT RIVER MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ITS FLOW. AN INTERNATIONAL RIVER IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE COMMON PROPERTY OF THE COUNTRIES THROUGH WHICH IT FLOWS AND TO CONSTITUTE, TOGETHER WITH ITS TRIBUTARIES, A NATURAL AND INDIVISIBLE UNIT FROM ITS SOURCE TO ITS MOUTH.
2. A RIVER'S WATER RESOURCES ARE MADE UP OF SURFACE AND GROUND WATER, WATER FROM TRIBUTARIES AND SPRINGS AND RAIN WATER.
3. NO RIPARIAN COUNTRY MAY EXPLOIT THE WATERS OF A COMMON RIVER IN ITS TERRITORY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE SEVERE DETRIMENT

TO ONE OR MORE OF THE OTHER RIPARIAN COUNTRIES.

END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: OCON, SENV, PLOS, IZ, IR, SY, TU, UN
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